

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
Program Title:	International Development Assistance (IDA)
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	961-001
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$255,500,000 IDA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$58,000 ESF; \$20,266,000 IDA; \$19,832,000 IRRF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$385,500,000 IDA
Year of Initial Obligation:	N/A
Year of Final Obligation:	N/A

Summary: USAID/DCHA/OFDA and its implementers strive to meet the critical needs of targeted vulnerable people in emergency situations around the world, and to advance sustainable development and global interests. OFDA activities minimize the human costs of displacement, conflicts and natural disasters by ensuring that emergency assistance is targeted and received by victims in a timely manner, and that those victims' capacities for livelihoods are protected or restored. Whenever possible, OFDA introduces mitigation measures to improve response capabilities and help safeguard development gains.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

When humanitarian assistance does not reach its targeted beneficiaries as quickly as possible, the result may be increased suffering and loss of life. In FY 2004, OFDA will continue to provide and improve upon its timely and appropriate humanitarian assistance to disaster victims. Recognizing its limitations and budgetary constraints, OFDA will target the most vulnerable groups based on sound assessment of needs, local resources and coping strategies.

Disaster experts note that the first line of defense against disasters is community and household social and economic systems. OFDA will address this issue by providing appropriate emergency assistance that helps people restore their assets and regain their productivity. Recognizing the link between relief, recovering from the effects of a disaster, and development, OFDA will continue to collaborate where possible with other USAID Bureaus and Missions on programs that can minimize the loss of hard-won development gains.

In attempting to help people reduce dependence on outside assistance, OFDA will also work to improve the response capacities of host-countries and other humanitarian assistance providers in risk-prone countries. Enhanced capacities and improved capabilities for humanitarian responders at national and local levels can ensure more timely and efficient response and help graduate countries from the need for outside assistance.

OFDA will continue to support innovations in humanitarian assistance, information technology and knowledge management tools, e.g., eRooms, in FY 2004. It will study new models for assistance and promote cutting edge developments through a series of seminars, conferences and studies. OFDA will explore ideas such as improving shelter design and use, innovative seed and tool programs around the world and how to better understand and target the needs of vulnerable persons, including the internally displaced. A humanitarian debate series that invites experts in humanitarian assistance will be developed to exchange ideas and provoke debate on relevant issues for OFDA staff and others in USAID, other U.S. Government (USG) entities and the humanitarian community at large.

OFDA continues to strengthen internal capacity through improved staff training. FY 2004 will see new training curricula, including courses on working with internally displaced persons, mitigation practices, and leadership skills. There will be online courses in cable writing, portfolio management and disaster

declaration basics. Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-end explosive (CBRNE) training is being redesigned to conform to OSHA standards. Disaster management training will continue in hurricane-prone regions like Latin America, the Caribbean and the South Pacific, and it will begin in Africa with the hiring of a new training advisor. OFDA will continue to support training for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in security, public health in complex emergencies, and CBRNE.

OFDA has eight offices around the world. A regional office in San Jose, Costa Rica, provides coverage for Latin America and the Caribbean. That office is supported by a sub-regional office in Bridgetown, Barbados. There are three regional offices in Africa: Dakar, Senegal; Nairobi, Kenya; and Pretoria, South Africa. Asia is covered from its regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, and a sub-regional office in Kathmandu, Nepal. Maintaining these offices allows OFDA staff to be closer to their areas of responsibility, develop a better understanding of relevant regional dynamics and issues, and to develop more appropriate disaster, preparedness and relief strategies.

FY 2005 Program:

OFDA will use FY 2005 resources to continue providing quality humanitarian assistance to disaster victims, as well as expertise and resources for preparedness, mitigation and prevention activities. It will strengthen its response capabilities by honing the professional skills of its staff and partner agencies, and it will continue to improve its monitoring and response capabilities for quicker and more appropriate regional disaster response.

Principal Grantees and Cooperating Agencies: OFDA relies on partnerships with various NGOs, USG entities and international organizations (IOs) to coordinate and facilitate its humanitarian response. Major U.S. NGO partners include Catholic Relief Services, CARE, the International Medical Corps, the International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and World Vision. Grants are also provided to international NGOs, including ACTED, GOAL, Merlin and Solidarite. USG partners include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Public Health Service. OFDA also works very closely with international organizations such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and several UN agencies.

Performance and Results: OFDA and its partner agencies responded to 63 declared disasters in 53 different countries in FY 2003. Fifteen of these disasters were complex emergencies. OFDA and its partners also collaborated on preparedness and mitigation projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Two new regional offices were established in 2003 (Dakar and Pretoria), allowing OFDA to better monitor the humanitarian situation and more quickly respond to emergencies on the African continent.

The intervention in Iraq was the dominant OFDA activity in 2003, demanding more time, effort and money than any other. In preparation for Gulf deployment, OFDA managed and ran training for 91 persons from seven USAID offices, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a number of NGOs. Several critical courses were developed and taught specifically for this deployment, including CBRNE, Vehicle Anti-Terrorism and Safety Driving, Landmine Awareness and Hostage Survival.

Supplemental Funds: In response to the intervention in Iraq, OFDA received \$143.8 million in supplemental funding (HR 1559) to address relief and rehabilitation needs; \$30 million in Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Funds (IRRF) to address emergency requirements and to assist vulnerable populations in health, nutrition, water and sanitation; and \$12 million in Economic Support Funds (ESF). Also, \$30 million in Development Assistance (DA) funds were authorized in accordance with Section 492(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, because planning for the Middle East and commitments elsewhere were likely to lead to IDA requirements in excess of available resources. Funds carried over from FY 2002 include: \$1,835,326 in ESF funds from Afghanistan, and \$3.5 million in ESF funds from Sudan. In addition, \$652,599 was carried over from FY 2002 Southern Africa Disaster Assistance.